

**Comments on texts resulting from the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission
Report – January 2005 Meeting
Submitted by the United States of America**

APPENDIX X . X . X

GUIDELINES FOR THE SURVEILLANCE
OF CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER

Article x.x.x.2

General conditions and methods

1)...

2) The CSF surveillance programme should:

- a) include an early warning system throughout the production, marketing and processing chain for reporting suspicious cases. Farmers and workers, who have day-to-day contact with livestock, as well as diagnosticians, should report promptly any suspicion of CSF to the *Veterinary Authority*. They should be supported directly or indirectly (e.g. through private veterinarians or *veterinary para-professionals*) by government information programmes and the *Veterinary Administration*. Since many strains of CSFV do not induce pathognomonic gross lesions or clinical signs, cases in which CSF cannot be ruled out should be immediately investigated employing clinical, pathological, and laboratory diagnosis. ~~This requires that sampling kits and other equipment are available to those responsible for surveillance. Personnel responsible for surveillance should be able to call for assistance from a team with expertise in CSF diagnosis, epidemiological evaluation, and control;~~

Rationale: It is unclear what is meant by the term “surveillance” in these last two sentences which we have suggested that Commission delete from this paragraph. Does it refer to those doing the investigation of suspicious cases or to those who recognize those suspicious cases? In either instance, these sentences are really not needed here.

Article x.x.x.3

Surveillance strategies

The target population for surveillance aimed at identification of *disease* and *infection* should include domestic and wild pig populations within the country or zone to be recognised as free from CSFV infection. Such surveillance may involve opportunistic testing of samples submitted for other purposes, but a more efficient and effective strategy is one which includes targeted surveillance.

Depending on the local epidemiological situation, targeted surveillance could be considered as more effective than a randomized surveillance strategy. Surveillance is targeted to the pig population which presents the highest risk of *infection* (for example, swill fed farms, pigs reared outdoors, farms in proximity to infected wild pigs). Each country will need to identify its individual risk factors. These may include: temporal and spatial distribution of past *outbreaks*, pig movements and demographics, etc. Ideally a pathway analysis should be conducted to determine the most likely entry points of CSF into the population.

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Rationale: Adding the text on pathway analysis addresses all the issues a country should consider when monitoring and assessing the risk for the disease.

Article x.x.x.6

Recovery of free status

- 1) Countries or zones ~~re~~-seeking reestablishment of freedom from CSF following an outbreak

In addition to the general conditions described in Chapter 2.6.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*, a country ~~re~~-seeking reestablishment of country or zone freedom from CSF should show evidence of an active surveillance programme for CSF as well as absence of CSFV infection.

Populations under this surveillance programme should include, but not be limited to:

- a) *establishments* in the area of the *outbreak*;
- b) *establishments* epidemiologically linked to the *outbreak*;
- c) animals used to re-populate affected *establishments* and any *establishments* where contiguous culling is carried out;
- d) wild pig populations in the area of the *outbreak*.

In all circumstances, a Member Country ~~re~~-seeking reestablishment of -country or zone freedom from CSF with vaccination or without vaccination should report the results of an active and passive surveillance programme in which the pig population undergoes regular clinical, pathological, virological, and/or serological examination, planned and implemented according to general conditions and methods in these guidelines. The surveillance should be based on a statistically representative sample of the populations at risk.

Rationale: The suggested changes indicated above are provided for clarity.

Article x.x.x.6

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- 2) Country or zone free of CSF in wild pigs

While the same principles apply, surveillance in wild pigs presents challenges beyond those encountered in domestic populations in each of the following areas:

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There may be situations where a more targeted surveillance programme can provide additional assurance. The criteria to define high risk areas for targeted surveillance can be:

- areas with past history of CSF;

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- sub-regions with high wild pig density;
- border regions with CSF affected countries or zones;
- areas of contact between sub-populations;
- picnic and camping areas;
- around farms with free-ranging pigs;
- special risk areas determined by local *Veterinary Authorities*;
- garbage dumps;
- military bases;
- air and sea ports.

Rationale: Additional venues are provided where targeted surveillance should be considered.